**Title:** Demand to amend the Food Adulteration Act to punish the real adulterators of food in Southern States.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, thousands of merchants from southern States are staging a `dharna' before the Parliament. They are agitating on a very genuine and reasonable demand. You are aware that sometime back in Delhi, there was adulteration of edible oils. And the consequences are known to all of us. Even packed foods are adulterated. No steps are being taken to find out the real adulterators. Adulteration in the case of packed foods takes place at the packing stage or at the manufacturing stage. In none of the States, the State Government is taking serious steps to find out the real adulterators. Instead, what is happening is that they go to a shopkeeper who is an ordinary merchant or a small shopkeeper. That shopkeeper is caught for adulterating the food at the manufacturing stage. He is arrested and punished.

This is because of the lacunae in the law. They are demanding that the Food Adulteration Act should be amended so that deserving punishment should be given to the real adulterators of food, especially those who are adulterating at the manufacturing stage.

packed food, at the manufacturing stage.

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM (GULBARGA): Same is the case with the pesticides also.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Yes, I agree with him. Same is the case with pesticides also. Therefore, this Food Adulteration Act should be amended as early as possible. It is with this demand that the traders and merchants from Southern States are agitating .

I am bringing this fact to the notice of the Government. I would request that an early amendment to this Act should be brought out so that justice is done to them. Thank you, Sir... (Interruptions)

सभापति महोदय : सदन की कार्यवाही भोजनावकाश के लिए १४३० बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

13.30 hrs.

(तत्पश्चात लोक सभा मध्याहन भोजन के लिए १४३० बजे तक के लिए स्थगित हुई।)

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